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### English Language Learners

As future teachers, we are entering a profession that is continuously changing. New laws are being passed and standardized test are becoming the key to success. Also, the United States is seeing more students from different cultural backgrounds. Now African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Americans make up the majority of public schools. Diversity is growing in the classroom and many students are speaking English as a second language. Schools have gone from ratio of 1 in 20 to 1 in 9 students that speak English as a second language. Recently, the No Child Left Behind law was updated and now is called the Every Student Succeeds Act. With this act, an enormous amount of energy and money was provided to schools to help English language learning students. Also, there has been a push to measure the proficiency of ELL students and their growth.

All teachers need to prepare to educate ELL students. With the increasing amount of ELL students in the United States public schools, teachers need to be able to effectively plan lesson with them in mind. In an interview with Qynne Zizis, an ELL teacher, she said the most important thing for teachers to do is become familiar with each language/culture. Understand the pronunciation and word order to effectively grade each student's' work. Also, teachers need to learn different cultural beliefs that their students may have. This comes with getting to know your students and how they learn. Recognizing patterns within the language and cultures can help teachers connect with

their students for a better learning experience. Another thing that teachers need to do for all of their students is to embrace each culture. Instead of isolating ELL students from the rest of the class, embrace it with all students. General education students can benefit from having ELL students in their classroom. It will help them learn and understand other cultures around the world. Along with that, ELL students can also bring different experiences into the classroom.

Being aware of the different learning styles, interests, and cultural backgrounds in the classroom is a key to success for all teachers. Diversity in the classroom is at an all-time high and teachers need to be aware of that. English Language Learners have a very strong hold in the world of education. These student bring in culture, they bring in different life experiences, and if they are taught correctly, are able to share a lot of those experiences with other students, allowing their knowledge of diverse cultures to expand. Everybody who comes in with ELL is in different stages of learning the language. Whether their language level is strictly academic, strictly social, or even non-existent at that time, there are so many different ways to be able to teach each and every student exactly what he or she need to learn. Because of this, there are a lot of different kinds of philosophies that can be used to help these students succeed. We are taught as teachers that everybody learns differently, so keeping that in mind, all teachers teach differently. There are different reasons as to why it is important to try and get a background of what each student has learned in the past. Without getting this information, there will be no way of truly understanding where they are now in their education. These students need to feel comfortable in the new world of education that they are entering. Because of this, being open to all different kinds of philosophies is extremely important for each student.

As an educator, there will be all different kinds of students coming in and out of the classroom. Every single student is different and no matter where they are in their education, they will affect our teaching styles. This is important to remember because we must always be willing to change who we are as educators to help our students learn best. It also really pushes us to branch out and start talking to the educators around us, asking about not only their classroom experiences but also what their interactions have been with English Language Learners throughout the years. So though it does not really change anything about the idea of becoming a teacher, it can make some classes more difficult than others. The whole idea behind focusing on ELL students is to reach out for resources and collaboration over anything else. It is hard to get the experience any other way.

English language learners can be found in almost every classroom today, totaling 4.9 million students currently enrolled in public schools around the United States in 2015. ([https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator\\_cgf.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cgf.asp)) English language learners (ELL) present a unique challenge for general education teachers because ELL students are traditionally defined as students who use English as a second language. According to the English Language Learners: A Policy Research Brief, 57% of ELL students come from America, and 43 emigrate from other countries. (<http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Resources/PolicyResearch/ELLResearchBrief.pdf>) ELL students who are emigrating from other countries may sometimes seek freedom, equality, or rights and access to the American Dream. In today's society, education provides a pathway to success. Imagine trying to obtain property, an education, and other aspects of American society that determine success, all while not understanding English.

Teachers need to be mindful of ELL students and find accommodations within their teaching styles, delivery and content to make sure that English language learners have the same learning opportunity as their fellow classmates.

Historically, the rise of immigration in the United States had led to diversity among the population and an increase of families and who do not use English as their primary language. In the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, educational attainment among immigrants continued to rise. ([https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator\\_caa.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_caa.asp)). As time continued, federal law was passed in 1967 to give adequate representation to ELL students in classrooms across America. The Bilingual Education Act provided federal funds for schools to help provide resources for ELL students as well as their teachers. In 2001, the passing of No Child Left Behind, bilingual education was included: “to ensure that children who are limited English proficient, ... attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic attainment in English and meet the same challenging State academic standards as all children are expected to meet.” (<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/nclbreference/reference.pdf>).

Throughout the history of schools, curriculum, culture, experience and so many other things have changed. This is the time in which we as teachers are able to give our students the opportunity to feel most welcome. We have overcome segregation, intolerance, integration, mainstreaming, laws changing and this is just one more current problem that we need to come together and figure out to allow our students to have an amazing experience.

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